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POLICE ANECDOTES,

OR THE

STRATAGEMS OF OFFICE

CLEARLY GIVEN;

BEING A

CORRECT AND AUTHENTIC STATEMENT OF THE
PLUNDERS AND PECULATIONS WHICH RE-
TAILERS OF SPIRITS IN DUBLIN ARE
AT PRESENT SUBJECT TO,

WITH

THE LIVES AND CHARACTERS OF SOME
COLONELS, CAPTAINS AND JUSTICES.

DUBLIN:

Printed and Sold, 148, Parliament-street.



POLICE ANECDOTES,

&c. &c.

TO discuss Public Topics, to investigate the conduct of Magistrates, to point out Public Oppressors, to conduct by reason and moderation the public notice towards ignorant and corrupt men, who too frequently are appointed without sufficient inquiry, to administer or explain the laws, are among the acknowledged duties of the Press. But men whose actions could not bear the test of this tribunal, and would secure themselves in their career of delapidation, have prudently extinguished this great detector, once the pride and glory of England herself. Printing like many other trades, nearly suffocated by taxation and penalties, contrives to steal into circulation by resorting to a clandestine manufactory, where the vigilance of the Informer, and the zeal of the magistrate, are often avoided with success, and Letters, like other merchandise, are become objects of smuggling industry.

Driven

Driven to the necessity of stealing our opinions into the world, and provoked at the flagrant acts of a system of petty oppression, unknown to the government or legislature, which disgraces magistracy, devours a numerous body of people, and often brings contempt and execrations on the higher departments of the state, who we are conscious are strangers to it, and for this reason that the man in office is too powerful in himself and his co-partners, and the poor victims too obscure to be heard.

In the following hasty detail, we will undertake to describe such a combination of plunderers, who, under the name of magistrates, exercise such a crowd of continued enormities, that would even astonish many of the men engaged in it by its extent and duration.

The principal source of magisterial emolument is among Retailers of brewed and distilled Liquors.

Within the limits of the circular road there are sixteen hundred people of this description, who pay a sum of £80,000 annually as license, and it is reasonably allowed that another sum equal to it is extorted from them by magistrates and their retainers; the most iniquitous stratagems are used to extort this plunder. This numerous body of people, whom the law hath branded with the appellation of Publican, as peculiarly applicable to their profession, and so infamous a meaning has produced a certain class of ideas attached to the odious epithet, and so far influenced the public opinion against a Publican, that any complaint

complaint he can make against a petty oppressor is treated with contempt, and thus an absolute, cruel, and mean system of stupid government, is placed over him, and an ignorant Alderman, or drunken Justice, fattens on the injured man, and his tears only amuse the little Despot, while his earnings pamper him, and his majesty's name is ignorantly execrated for the ignorant tyranny of his ill-chosen servant.

We will ask the Legislator or the Governor, or any of our readers, not stupid Aldermen, or trading Justices, what inferiority of moral or physical qualities has a retailer of Spirits or Beer to a retailer of Ribbons or Broad Cloath, to a six-foot high Haberdasher or an Aldermanic Baker, or why is the man who retails Beer or Whiskey inferior to the man who manufactures Beer or Whiskey.

If property be the only criterion, we could name Publicans possessed of more than many Brewers or Distillers, or any Taylors, Corporation Barbers, Weavers or Breeches-makers, and yet tho' these men are as much Publicans by their respective professions as the traduced Publican, yet the influence of a cant word has deprived one man of the benefits of the law, and has dubbed the other a magistrate, and an honest subject is held up as an object not to be heard, while a mean and obscure wretch without property, morals or capacity, is qualified to traduce, to govern and plunder him.

We will ask, why is the Land-holder, who is a Law-maker, more respectable as a tradesman than
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the publican, the Landholder whose rent is gathered by the publican feels the convenience of the humbler profession and tho' he declaims in the Senate against the immoderate use of spirituous liquors, he secretly rejoices at the thriving condition of the only trade left in the country that can contribute to his opulence, a nation that may be said of it, that it has no manufactures, and no other means of employing its people or of paying enormous rents, than by the cultivation of its rude produce, and were no other application of our tillage to be made them by converting it into bread, tho' the poor might live better and much more sober, yet the rich landlord would not benefit so much, by nine-tenths of his rents, as by the present mode, which gives more whiskey than bread to his tenantry, and the Distillers trade would almost be unheard of as an object of finance, but the friend of order would be pleased to see a pernicious tho' profitable source of wealth and taxation extinguished, a system that, unhappily for the tranquillity of society, encourages a trade, by which one Distiller turns more of our corn into whiskey than is used by one hundred bakers for bread; certainly under the hands of Mr. FOSTER, our Chancellor of the Exchequer, an eminent and skillful financier, the use of corn in distillation has much diminished his great talents and patriotism, has effected much since his appointment to his high situation, as a *deputy manager* in a foreign Legislature, this quack, among statemen, has so closely driven the distillers by continued experiments on their capacity for assisting the excise, that we have the satisfaction to learn, corn not being quickenough in producing the required quantity of spirits, Mr. Foster charges

charges duty on, in every month; the ingenious distiller is obliged to vary his experiments with the ingenious chancellor, and has put into requisition all the minerals, all the alkaline compounds known in chemistry, mountains and laboratories are rummaged to assist us to a new kind of drink, and so great a proficiency has Mr. Foster's plans given, that we expect the people in a few years will be poisoned on much cheaper terms than formerly, and we see no probability of any alteration in the new system of poisoning terminating, except the owners of arable lands, whose rents must decline, are not more numerous in parliament than the proprietors of mountains, whose rents are now on the advance. If some amicable settlement is not effected among those two descriptions of law-makers, one of them must, by the decay of rents, be compelled to descend to be a greater customer to the cord-wainer than to the Coach-maker, and my lady be obliged to *walk* against her will as much as any of her vulgar tenants, and the revenue in the hands of 'the patriot Foster,' that allows tobacco for the purpose of taxation, would want a smaller number of surveyors, majors, and captains, and the crowd of informers and fixers that now mob our streets and highways, and the word publican as it is at present in our vocabulary and statute books, would be unknown, or be more justly applied to the idle overgrown animals of doubtful gender, that measure ribbons and weigh threads behind counters in Dame-street.

Among others, whom we have to notice as a magistrate, is a man of the name of Godfrey. This Gentleman, or captain as he is called by his drunken

One O. H. Godfrey is given in a Dublin Almanac for 1803, as Assistant Magistrate on the Lord's Circuit, residing in Russell place.

drunken companions, has been near sixteen years in the Commission of the Peace; this Captain, Justice, and Esquire, is the son of a military lady, whose younger days and nights were devoted to the service of a marching regiment, she shared her charms alternately with the reddened heroes, just as money, drink, or desire operated on her feelings, yet she invariably complied with a kind of etiquette expected from her by her fellow soldiers, that she would not cuckold the corps by any love affair in any other regiment, and her very honourable adherence to the conditions are given as an example to this day in the 40th, which clearly proves Philip a son of that gallant regiment, but it is not known who the individual father was, nor has it caused any useless inquiry, as the lady herself may be a stranger to a point unnecessarily sought for; the Justice is however the son of the regiment. When time, whose unsparing hands had ruffled her features, and dried up her desires, and lessened the demands for her person, she was rewarded for her fidelity by an appointment to the delicate and lucrative employment of Nurse to the Military Hospital on Arbour Hill, where she was known many years by her husband's name, as Mrs. Forty, until she changed her condition by marrying corporal Godfrey, who allowed the young Justice, his step-son, to take his name.

The Justice, as he is called, levies his perquisites with considerable success, as publicans are the safest game, their complaints never going higher than to their oppressor, are regularly closed by the benevolence of the Justice, or one of his deputies, whose demands must not be refused, nor decisions disputed on pain of a caining, or having his

his liquors spilt on the ground with the tears of his wife and children, and this is frequently acted for not "*coming down*," as the under justices express it, that is neglecting to furnish the justice with presents of well flavoured whiskey, which by Mr. Foster's improvements cannot at present be done; the under Magistrates or Constables must never be denied the use of any thing in the house, whenever they please to honour it by a visit. Within the space of three months the Justice, and his assistants, extorted, under a number of pretexts, from one publican at the Canal-bridge, Drumcondra, not less than fifty pounds, besides giving him two dubbings for a dulness of conception discovered in him by the discerning magistrate. The Justice, however, in most cases performs his part with his victim by a solemn appearance of law; the culprit, when obstinate, is accused of selling on Sunday, or after eleven at night, tho' this might happen in many instances, but never in presence of a constable; but as the Justice, is judge, jury and executioner, and a party in the cause, as he snacks the best part of the fine, he generally decides very learnedly in his own favour, but the awful and edifying assistance of an oath been deemed a necessary part in the judicial drama, is performed by the constable, and the ruined victim departs amidst the coarse jokes of the court.

A very novel perquisite was lately invented by the justices men and their wives. As they live near the banks of the Royal Canal, near Summer-hill, they had an opportunity of seeing dead bodies that were drowned taken out of the Canal water, they were generally the remains of people whom poverty

or intoxication had destroyed, many of them were never claimed by friend or relation, such deserted bodies were removed to a convenient and populous part of the road by Godfrey's men and their wives, who placed a plate on the breast of the dead person to collect money from passengers, as if for funeral expenses, two days were always applied to this business, and three or four pounds were made by the partners which they expended in drink and riot. A gentleman in the neighbourhood observed, in some time, that the number of drowned persons had increased to an alarming degree, and beyond any proportion comparatively with any other neighbourhood of a canal; the next dead body he discovered in the hands of the justices, as usual to collect money, he proceeded to the gentlemen, threatened to prosecute them if ever they again repeated the begging experiment; this seasonable interference had the desired effect, and not one drowned person has been near Summer-hill since; no doubt is entertained by the inhabitants, whenever these wretches wanted a few pounds, but some female pauper was drowned.

But the most extensive and scandalous office of this system of oppression is the one of Superintendent Magistrate. This establishment is commanded by a man who has been distinguished by his fellow-citizens, by the title of Alderman.

At the formation of the militia he was named Lieutenant Colonel in the Dublin Regiment, this appointment he held two years only; so vain is he of military honours, that none of his constables or informers dare address him by any other title but

but Colonel, nor dare any person who seeks his adjudication pronounce the word alderman without running the chance of losing his cause, and getting a flogging from the enraged constables.

This Colonel or Alderman in a city, which a Mr. Whitelaw, in a late publication, says contains but 170,000 inhabitants, has emoluments equal to the Governor of Jamaica, for his attendance in one office, a sum not less than £15,000 per year, and at a period when its people are exhausted by taxes for the necessary defence of the empire, and the want of trade by the non-residence of their landlords and gentry, added to the usual embarrassments which business meet with, in a long and expensive contest with an active and implacable enemy.

The next to the Colonel is a captain of the name of Carleton. This gentleman has a natural son, a Brewer, of the same name in Francis-street; the Captain's power over publicans, whom the fear of his wrath must make his creatures, taking advantage of the opportunity of providing for the fruits of his juvenile pleasures, made a brewer of his boy, and put him into an establishment in partnership with a young Lawyer by birth, but a Glover by trade, a son of Lord Carleton's; the two illegitimate Brewers were so actively assisted by Oliver, that in six years time they realised a property of ten thousand pounds.

Oliver's activity quickly sold all the beer and porter the young men could get made, or such stuff

stuff as they were pleased to give such names to, and any Publican who neglected to deal with them was constantly fined and hunted, until a Jail determined the fate of the unfortunate man, where Oliver frequently drove many who wore so unmanageable as to refuse his sons porter and ale; some of the under Constables or Informers were often imprudent enough to fine young Carleton's customers, this required some exercise of authority to stop, he often hinted in the hearing of his banditti, "That any one who hurted his boy he would have an eye on," this had the intended effect on the corps. The son, for some considerable time before he became brewer, held a situation under the father, and continued to do so some time after, after which gave him a considerable influence over such whose fears, not their discretion, compelled to deal with him, and several other brewers, who had nothing to assist them to consumption, but the quality of their drink, were by the mere effect of terror deprived of their customers, without being allowed any of the benefits of a fair competition, by which industry is best rewarded, and the public best served, but such were the fears of the Publicans from the Police Captains, that the brewers of Dublin, who made a wholesome drink, were deprived of their best customers. They petitioned Lord Hardwicke, and stated their grievances so much to his Excellency's conviction, that with his usual attention to redress when he can, his Excellency ordered the dismissal of young Carleton, if he did not quit brewing; the young gentleman left the office, and continued his trade, as he could depend on his father to supply him with unwilling customers, and the father's exertions encreased

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in proportion to this temporary difficulty, thrown in his way by authority ; Oliver immediately got some of the principal Publicans to sign a paper, which he published in the Evening Post, asserting that they had bought Mr. Carleton's porter, not thro' any influence of Office, but really for the great superiority of his drink, and strange to tell, such were the fears of this people of Oliver's indignation, that this advertisement was not signed by any man who ever bought or sold any of his "boys" drink.

Young Oliver was succeeded by a Watchman of the name of Whiteside, a gentleman selected by Captain Carleton, for a very industrious attention to whatever could promote the interests or pleasures of his patron ; Mr. Whiteside has amply sustained the business of his young friend, by fining any person who has the temerity to neglect him ; indeed Mr. Whiteside's exertions are so constant, that many conceived he had a share in the brewery, but we assure our readers he is not yet qualified by pecuniary means to buy any considerable part in any expensive establishment, tho' he is very confident if this excellent William-street institution continues, he shall be as independant as any gentleman under the *Colonel* ; indeed he must rise rapidly, as he has done. A very short time since he brought his wife's sister from a distant part of the country, and gave her as a present to his old friend the Captain, for this mark of attention to his patron he was appointed Keeper, or as some jailors have had it explained to dignify their office, Governor of the Penitentiary in Smithfield ; but Mr. Whiteside was dismissed for plundering the unfortunate women committed

committed to his custody; he now continues under the Colonel, and his oath, in the opinion of Mr. Under-secretary Hatch, or the Colonel, is intitled to more credence than all the proofs of all the Coach-owners, Dairy-men or Publicans in Dublin; this is really natural, as his wife Jenny has the ear and bed of Mr. Hatch, and at intervals the company of the Colonel whenever his capricious taste desires variety.

The next officer of grasping capacity, is Captain Logan, this gentleman commands in the Rotunda Division, for the city is divided by the Colonel into four prefectures or proconsulates, and Captain Logan has not neglected any opportunity which his extensive commission vests in him to make the very best of his government; he is a very extensive dealer in Spirits, Wines, Cyder, &c. in company with the Colonel's son, and the partners have availed themselves of their great power by commanding a very numerous body of customers, and consequently a rapid sale of their merchandises. Several grocers and publicans, who complied with the regulations prescribed by the law, were silly enough to imagine they were at liberty to purchase where they could get the best goods, or most convenient terms, but they have since learned, that a law made in Westminster is not sufficient to protect them if they presume to dispute the acts of legislation of the Clarendon-street Senate, who unanimously decree they only are authorised to point out to any retailers, what brewer, or whiskey factor or distiller, they shall deal with, and will find any such retailers guilty of selling on Sundays and after eleven at night, who shall give any preference

ference to any Brewer not of their Corps, or approved off by the Corps, or by the Colonel, the four divisional Captains, the twelve chief Constables, or a majority of the lower house of forty-eight Constables, and any Publican shall be found guilty also, who shall refuse to buy Alderman Manders' Porter, or Oliver Carleton's, they being the best Brewers in Dublin, or shall refuse to buy Captain Logan's Whiskey, or any other Captain or Constables whiskey, under the false pretence, that any Captains said whiskey has been watered, or refuses to buy his or their wines under the like false pretences, that such wines are only decoctions of Logwood in Whiskey and water; these regulations have been duly enforced, and every publican in Captain Logan's district, of any discretion, has regularly acted by the prescribed line of duty, and every such publican now sells in defiance of the statute of Westminster, at all times and places, as Captain Logan's law has in such cases made and provided, and Captain Logan is now more at his leisure to cultivate his farms, and improve his country seats, train his dogs, and ornament his hot-houses. The Captain means to take his seat very shortly in the Farming Society, he has several large hogs, of a particular breed, billeted on a few Brewers, who are under some awe of his jurisdiction, or hopes of his interest, and as soon as said hogs are properly fed and educated, they are to be exhibited at the Society's Academy in Stephen's-green; Mr. Grierson has promised to sing in their praise, and on the patriotism of their owner the Captain.

The next Captain most distinguished for ingenuity is Mr. Wilson, his progress in official emoluments

luments is a great credit to himself and the institution. He arrived in Dublin about ten years ago, and served in the Police at thirty pounds annually, his salary at present is not more than one hundred pounds, and at a time that moderate men of five hundred a year cannot save a shilling, Captain Wilson, out of the perquisites of office, has purchased an estate in the County of Meath of £600 per annum, this seeming paradox may be accounted for by the following true though imperfect statement;—a retailer of spirits as we observed before is not allowed to sell on Sundays, but the demand on such days being much more than on any other, tempts many a poor man to violate the law, Wilson whose vigilance is unceasing and emissaries numerous, earns five pounds by the detection, selling after eleven at night incurs the like penalty; there is one description of publicans, whose temerity or circumstances prevent exposing themselves to the vengeance of the law, and who never break thro' the required exactness, and this character, a person not a superintendant Captain, would conceive deserving of indulgence, on the contrary the civic Procunful, considers such tameness, a studied attack on his emoluments, and as a man in office must not be sported with, while he can indemnify himself, and as his fortune not his soul is in consideration, and nothing but the foolish formality of an oath requisite, he swears, and the Constable's oath, in the William-street court, being in higher estimation than the most respectable proofs, he gets the five pounds, the Captain on every Wednesday swears at least forty oaths, which at forty shillings each gives him a clear sum of eighty pounds a week.

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Another description of retailers who are in opulence, spend every Sunday in the country, and never allow their houses to be opened on such days, these people are particularly objects of his indignation, and he carefully inspects their conduct, and should they, by any chance, neglect to leave a servant in town to open the door, he is sure of five pounds, as a neglect to give him entrance when he demands, makes them liable to the penalty.

Captain Wilson as a man of taste and convivial manners, sees much company and frequently, at his hospitable residence, on every such occasion he sends a requisition of wines, groceries and spirits, to such Grocers and Publicans as are most in awe of his government, and they never fail to accommodate him in proportion to their fears and circumstances.

Another gentleman of very considerable authority is a Mr. Wallace, though not dignified by a Captain's commission, he is a man of high consideration, he is one of the three Divisional Constables, but his interest is so extensive that he can act in any of the four divisions, and this plenitude of power is awarded to him for the following reasons; Mr. Wallace is by profession a Barber, and has the care of the outward and best furnished part of his imperial Cheiftain, the Colonel's head, that is, he shaves and dresses his master. Mrs. Wallace heretofore helped her little family by sharing her person with the Minor Officers, but her attractions were too distinguished to escape the military eye of the Colonel, he has taken her from the athletic embraces of Mr. Hatch,

Hatch, to his own more feminine tho' less pleasing arms, and his barber's helpmate has been lately raised from the Colonel's kitchen, to the rank of housekeeper, tho' against the advice of Mrs. Alexander, whose discernment has not suffered any considerable diminution by being a Colonel's lady, she expostulated in vain at the promotions of Mr. Wallace and his manageable rib, who still continues to do the honours of the Colonel's bed.

Mr. Wallace, thus privileged to proul through the entire of what is called the district of the metropolis, is realizing a fortune; what publican or grocer dare refuse to entertain him and his company with the best in their respective houses? or dare neglect to furnish him with the best teas and Spirits, or what dairy-man dare neglect to bring his quota of milk and butter to Mr. Wallace's office? Mr. Wallace is not to be trifled with, he has his oath, and his Colonel ready to punish the obdurate Publican, or the stupid Dairy-man or Coach-owner, who dare dispute his claims or question his authority.

The forty-eight common Constables, or lower house of law-makers, are very much embarrassed in their means of levying, as the Colonel's £15,000, the Captain Carleton, Logan and Wilton, with Messrs. Whitehead and Wallace's exactions, have so completely exhausted, wherever any thing was to be found, that the Publicans and the forty-eight Constables are not able to assist each other, and though mutual interest should cause some kind of affection between people, whose misfortunes are caused from the one and same quarter, yet the

the forty eight gentlemen insist with great firmness on being admitted to a share of whatever is left by their masters; to resist their claims would be sudden ruin, and to get leave to linger they must contrive to give a little more, however the forty eight adopt a modesty of demeanour in their exactions—they walk into a public house on a Sunday, as they are remarkably religious and conscientious, they are not to see spirits used on the Sabbath, without incurring the sin of perjury, they generally shut their eyes in the house of a “worthy,” that, is a person that “comes down” handsomely, and feels their way to the Bar, here the landlord meets his tax-gatherer, and discreetly puts a bottle of whiskey into the poor blind-man’s pocket, and a few shillings into his hand—if this little ceremony is neglected the poor man comes to his sight, and the next Wednesday swears before his Colonel he saw people in considerable numbers drinking spirits in the house of the accused, though frequently there had been no person in the man’s house at the time but the owner, but a Constable’s oath is the only proof allowed, and if it is questioned or denied by the defendant, the fine is doubled. Another method of collecting used by these gentlemen, two or three times each quarter, they get cards printed describing a watch, or some other article of value that never existed, to be rased for, for the benefit of one of the Corps, who is stated, but never named, as suffering under some incapacity by sickness or accident, and every publican is given one of those tickets, for which he must give half a crown, or suffer the displeasure of the religious association. Their stratagems are so numerous that our limits at present will not allow us to detail them, but we hope,
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on a second edition, to be furnished with such a number of authentic documents, as will enable us to lay before the public a copious and correct account of this oppressive and scandalous establishment.

The Mr. Hatch, we before mentioned, is a clerk under the Colonel, and has very ample powers given him, and very considerable use has he applied them to ; he is known to every retailer, as he registers their licenses, and has many favourites amongst them. Mr. Hatch generally keeps three or four public houses himself, under other names, and beside the advantage he possesses of having leave to keep his own houses open at any hour, and on every day, while others are obliged to be shut, he has in each a benefit dinner, twice a quarter, to each of which dinner he expects, and even indirectly compels the attendance of such publicans as fear his collateral vengeance, or expect his favour, at a guinea each person, for dinner and drink ; for Mr. Hatch can confer a favour in many cases to such as he notices. The law requires every person, before he gets his police license, to swear that he will not sell any smuggled spirits. Mr. Hatch is to administer this oath, but to a friend of his or his friends in office, this oath is not given.

The reader of this narrative must be astonished to hear that this detail is not one half of the cruel system the publicans are exposed to. Another man, who by the Corporation is called High Constable, equal to any of the former in the trade of extortion ; this man is also a considerable vender of all kinds of wines and spirits, and even

even porter, but of such debased quality is all things he pleases to denominate as either spirits, wine, or porter, that he would not be able to sell a gallon of any kind, if it were not through the unlawful use he makes of his authority as High Constable; by this office he has the appointing or direction of billeting such soldiers who pass through this city on business, and whose residence is only temporary. This privilege of office enables him to give billets on any house his own discretion pleases; the legal act of billeting Soldiers cannot be disputed, and though lawful, yet like any other constitutional custom, it can be converted into an act of tyranny, by a partial application of it in the hands of an ignorant or corrupt Magistrate; Billet-masters duty is to distribute billets fairly and equally on such as by law should receive them, and the Billet-master, like any other magistrate, should not, in the discharge of his public duty, be influenced by his own private emolument, or the laws will lose the effect intended, and society will want that union of policy and justice that cements our happy establishment—our High Constable derides such abstruse constructions, he sells the administration of his duty to such as will buy, his warehouse of liquid merchandises is resisted only by the indigent and unfortunate, whose scanty means would be dispersed very quickly, were they to hazard his displeasure one year, perhaps one month; it is no uncommon thing to know a poor publican, who is in the High Constable's book any short time, or who has dared to choose a better market to get billets to the amount of forty shillings per week, while another billet was not known for months in any other quarter. Mr. High Constable has the privilege

vilege of a benefit play once each year, of this he generally makes £1000, as he inflicts the usual punishment on any public or an innkeeper who neglect to buy a guineas worth of his tickets.

I may be honestly hoped, that some humane or enlightened senator may see this fugitive statement, and that some investigation will take place that may deliver a considerable body of his majesty's people from a cruel and disgusting system, of a very serious though heretofore very obscure speculation and petty despotism, and perhaps tend to teach a deluded and abused people that their sufferings, as they really are, be not attributed to his Majesty's Government, which should not be stupidly execrated for dark and scandalous association, equally enemies to the King and the People.

Communications, properly authenticated, will be received at the office every Thursday towards forwarding the design of this work.

